SFAC Scheme

2778. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the Central Sector Scheme, namely setting up of Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh has formed the State level SFAC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Sector Scheme provides Grants-in-Aid to the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), which is a Public—Private Joint Venture Society , declared as a financial Institution under section 17(8A) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 and under Section 9(1)(c) of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Act, 1964. It was registered on the 18th January, 1994, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, as a Society by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation. It has a diverse membership, with the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), IDBI, National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), State Bank of India (SBI) and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) being the Promoter Members, and Canara Bank,

National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) and M/s United Phosphorous Ltd. (a private company) as its primary members. Other banks, Financial institutions, Statutory and Autonomous Organizations, dealing in agriculture and agro industries, private companies and co-operatives, exporters, NGO/farmers organizations working in rural areas, and beneficiaries, including individual farmers can also become members of this society at the national level. State level counterpart Societies have been registered by 13 States so far to take advantage of the Schemetic Pattern of Assistance of the (Central) SFAC in its functions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Incentives for cashew growers

2779. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cashew farmers are facing falling prices of their produce and extreme-competitive atmosphere caused by the WTO regime;

(b) if so, what step Government propose to take to save the cashew farmers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a great demand for originally produced cashew from western countries; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to give special packages for Karnataka cashew growers; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The price of raw cashew-nut is influenced by the international price of cashew kernel. Though there has been some decrease in the